

## COSPAR

COMMITTEE ON SPACE RESEARCH, ESTABLISHED BY THE  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS

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THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS  
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31 July 1961.

Professor M. Florkin,  
Hotel Rubens,  
Buckingham Palace Road,  
London W. 1,  
ENGLAND

Dear Professor Florkin,

You may wish to have for your file this copy of a rough translation of the letter which I received on 28 July from Academician Sisakian and which was copied by him directly to you, Professor Lederberg and Professor Thompson. Before this letter was received, I had sent a telegram on July 27th to Professor Blagonravov reading:

- Foreign participants for informal discussion 9 August moscow on extra terrestrial life have all been invited stop we shall appreciate your help in making sure that competent russian delegation will take part. - van de Hulst.

The answer to this telegram, received to-day, read:

- Informal discussion on extra terrestrial life is planned 17 August Some russian scientists will take part.- Blagonravov.

This shows, that after all, they appear to have selected the 17th instead of the 9th (which was initially suggested by Professor Thompson). Evidently this is a matter which we have to leave to our hosts.

This completes the formal preparation of this informal meeting. I am most thankful for the active part, you and Professor Thompson have taken in arranging this. For the rest, we have to rely on the spirit of cooperation and the power of improvisation to make this meeting successful.

I should be glad if you could, during the opening of this informal meeting, give my greetings to the participants and express on behalf of COSPAR the best wishes for a fruitful exchange of scientific ideas and the hope that this meeting may contribute both to a deeper understanding of one of the most fundamental problems of the cosmos and to a lasting world-wide cooperation in active research on cosmic life, one of the most advanced ventures of mankind.

cc: Prof. Lederberg, ✓  
Prof. Thompson,  
Dr. Porter

Sincerely yours,

*H. C. van de Hulst*

H.C. van de Hulst.

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